

New claim 36 recites the subject matter of now canceled claims 1-3. The remaining claims have been amended for proper dependency from independent claim 36. The specification has undergone minor changes reflecting similar changes in the claims.

1. Claims 1-6 and 8-35 were rejected under §103(a) over Hiroki et al. in view of JP 53-28043.

Hiroki et al. discloses a container with a lid and a latch for securing the lid to the top of the container.

JP 53-28043 shows a similar device.

The presently claimed invention discloses a container with a lid. A unique configuration is recited for the latch that secures the lid to the top of the container. Specifically, the operating device comprises a vertical wall rising from the inner edge of a recessed portion, and a horizontal strip extending horizontally and away from the container and the upper-end part of the vertical wall. When the horizontal strip is depressed downward, the vertical wall bends away from the body of the container, thereby releasing the locking part on the lid.

Neither of the cited prior art documents discloses an operating device like that of the presently claimed invention.

Neither has a recessed portion, a vertical wall, or a horizontal strip.

For all the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in Hiroki et al. or JP 53-28043 which would suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Similarly, there is no disclosure or teaching in either of those references which would suggest the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claim 7 was rejected under §103(a) over Hiroki et al. in view of JP '043, further in view of Mejias.

Applicants' claim 7 depends from claims allowable for the reasons stated above, thereby mooting these grounds of rejection. And, Mejias does not overcome the defects of the other cited references. Applicants respectfully request that these grounds of rejection be withdrawn and claim 7 allowed.

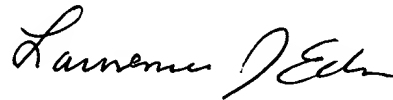
For the foregoing reasons, applicants' claims now particularly point out and distinctly claim what applicants regard as their invention in a manner patentably distinguished over all grounds of

rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 3-36 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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